

# MUSIC



## Avril Lavigne

LAVIGNE: CHRIS McPHERSON/COBBIS OUTLINE; STEFANI: ROBERT EDDMAN/IGNI.TL

**W**HAT DO YOU DO AFTER REMAKING the pop world in your tank-topped, necktied image? If you're 19-year-old **Avril Lavigne** (whose 2002 debut, *Let Go*, sold 6 million records), you take a break. For, like, a week. Then you get to work on your (not yet titled) second CD.

**EW** You've said that you wanted to make a heavier rock record. How'd that work out?

**AL** If I really did it exactly the way I wanted, I'd make every song more rock. But you need kind of, like, pop songs for radio. You need to be smart.

**EW** What's it like, then?

**AL** We aimed to get more catchy ones, but not

cheesy pop like some songs off the last record. As soon as I got home from my tour, I was like, "Oh, my God, I need to write!" So I got together with [Canadian singer-songwriter] **Chantal Kreviazuk**. We're, like, best friends. And we'd go get a chai tea latte and write a song together every night for two weeks in a row. We had so much fun, because I didn't tell my manager or record company.

**EW** Most important, what big fashion trend will you be inspiring next?

**AL** I wouldn't deliberately try to start something. But who knows if it'll happen again? I don't think it'll ever be as big as the tie. [*Laughs*] I was thinking about that the other day. I can't believe I wore a tie every day! I am so over that. (*late spring*)



# Gwen Stefani

Will Kevin Bacon dig her CD? No doubt!

Don't speak, she knows what you're thinking: If **Gwen Stefani** is currently recording her first solo album, that means **No Doubt** is no more, right? "We're taking a break," says Stefani, sighing patiently. "But we are definitely not breaking up." Fact is, after 17 years of mixing punk, ska, and pop, Stefani is now more creatively attuned to *Footloose* than *Fishbone*. "I wanted to make an '80s dance record," she says. "I wanted fake drumbeats, a **Salt 'N' Pepa** kind of sound. I couldn't do that with **No Doubt**."

The result, tentatively titled *What You Waiting For?*, is one of 2004's most anticipated CDs. So far, Stefani has recorded "a bunch of stuff" with R&B producer **Dallas Austin**, Neptune **Pharrell Williams** (see N.E.R.D. entry on page 66), and **Pink** collaborator **Linda Perry**. "[She] actually put me in a headlock at the Grammys and was like, 'We *have* to do something together!'" says Stefani.

It might take similar cajoling to get the busy singer focused. What with a new clothing line (called **Lamb**), a movie role (as **Jean Harlow** in **Martin Scorsese's** upcoming *The Aviator*), and a marriage (to **Bush's Gavin Rossdale**), Stefani hasn't found a whole lot of time to write new tunes. "I have this fantasy that my album will be out this summer," she says with a laugh. "Put that out there, and maybe it will force me to make it happen." Okay, the album's out this summer. Now, what you waiting for? (*summer—maybe*)